



Armageddon Avoided



At Press Time: Hurricane Irma Largely Spares Florida

An American flag is torn as Hurricane Irma passes through Naples, Fla., Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017.

By JENNIFER KAY

FREIDA FRISARO

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A monster

Hurricane Irma roared into Florida with 130 mph winds Sunday for what could be a sustained assault on nearly the entire Sunshine State, submerging streets, knocking out power to millions and snapping massive

construction cranes over the Miami skyline.

The 400-mile-wide (640-kilometer-wide) storm blew ashore in the morning in the mostly cleared-out Florida Keys and then began a slow march up the state's west coast. Forecasters said it could hit the heavily populated Tampa-St. Petersburg area early Mon-

day.

"Pray, pray for everybody in Florida," Gov. Rick Scott said on "Fox News Sunday" as more than 160,000 people statewide waited it out in shelters.

Irma struck as a Category 4 but by late afternoon had weakened to a Category 2 with 110 mph (177 kph) winds that whipped

Florida's palm trees with drenching squalls. A storm surge of over 10 feet (3 meters) was recorded in the Keys, and forecasters warned some places on the mainland could get up to 15 feet of water.

There were no immediate confirmed reports of any deaths in Florida, on top of the 24 people killed dur-

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

ing Irma's destructive trek across the Caribbean.

Many streets were flooded in downtown Miami and other cities. In the low-lying Keys, boats were reported sunk and appliances and furniture were seen floating away, but the full extent of Irma's fury there was not clear.

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Macron to Visit Caribbean as France Defends Hurricane Prep

By AMANDINE ASCENCIO

ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

MARIGOT, St. Martin (AP) — The French government on Sunday defended its hurricane preparations for the hard-hit Caribbean islands of St. Martin and St. Barts, rejecting criticism by political opponents and by islanders who felt abandoned as their homes and

towns were devastated.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced he would be traveling to St. Martin on Tuesday on an Airbus carrying aid supplies to show that Paris is committed to both helping and rebuilding its far-away territories pummeled by Hurricane Irma.

Some Caribbean officials said Britain was also too slow in respond-

ing to destruction on the British Virgin Islands and the Dutch government faced criticism for not acting more quickly to evacuate tourists stranded on St. Maarten, the Dutch side of St. Martin. The Dutch king is also heading to the region.

The hurricane killed at least nine people on St. Martin as it hit Wednesday, destroying a huge

number of houses, cars and boats and cutting off all water and electricity for days. Extra troops had to be sent to stop the looting of stores. Another four people were killed on St. Maarten.

The arrival of Hurricane Jose, a Category 4 that passed by on Sunday, only delayed recovery efforts across the Leeward Islands.

Continued on page 3

Waves from Irma flood Havana coast even as storm moves away

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**
DESMOND BOYLAN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Powerful waves and storm surge from Hurricane Irma topped Havana's iconic Malecon seawall and left thousands of homes, businesses and hotels swamped Sunday, even as the storm moved away from the island.

There were no immediate reports of fatalities in Cuba, where the government prides itself on disaster preparedness and said it had carried out evacuations totaling more than 1 million people.

Authorities warned that the floodwaters could linger for more than a day, and there was as-yet uncalculated damage to sugarcane and banana fields in central Cuba and to northern cays studded with all-inclusive resorts, potentially dealing a major blow to the country's key tourism industry.

The powerful storm ripped roofs off homes, collapsed buildings and caused floods along hundreds of miles of coastline after cut-



People walk through flooded streets in Havana after the passage of Hurricane Irma in Cuba, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. The powerful storm ripped roofs off houses, collapsed buildings and flooded hundreds of miles of coastline after cutting a trail of destruction across the Caribbean. There were no immediate reports of deaths in Cuba, a country that prides itself on its disaster preparedness, but authorities were trying to restore power and clear roads.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

ting a trail of destruction across the Caribbean. Irma has killed at least 24 people in the region, leaving officials scrambling to bring aid to shattered communities.

In Havana, home to some 2 million residents, central neighborhoods along the coast between the Almendares River and Havana harbor suffered the brunt of the flooding, with seawater

penetrating as much as a half-kilometer (one-third of a mile) inland in places.

Waves as high as 20 feet (6 meters) continued to pound Havana, with the spray topping the light-

house at the Morro fortress on the entrance to the bay, and Civil Defense Col. Luis Angel Macareno warned that the flooding would persist into Monday.

Emergency workers and residents boated and waded through streets littered with all manner of debris: toppled trees, downed electrical lines, roofs torn off by the winds and cement water tanks that fell from atop homes to the ground. Elena Villar and her mother spent the night huddling in the lobby of a building on higher ground as her home of 30 years filled with more than 6 feet (2 meters) of water. "I have lost everything," she said, on the edge of tears.

The waters and winds also damaged the seaside U.S. Embassy, tossing around shipping containers that sit on the compound, smashing parts of its perimeter fence, ripping exterior panels from the building and breaking windows and doors. The embassy's flag was in tatters fluttering from its staff Sunday. □

Macron to visit Caribbean as France defends hurricane prep

Continued from Front

In St. Martin on Sunday, authorities were trying to set up the first large distribution points for food and water as the smell of churned-up rotting debris wafted over the island.

In the western coastal town of Grand-Case, a 76-year-old man who only gave his first name, Michel, emerged from a grocery store laden with food, explaining that he had nothing else to eat. "Everything has been destroyed where I work. There's nothing there," said Manon Brunet-Vita, 27, as she walked through Grand-Case. "When I got to this neighborhood, I cried."

French government spokesman Christophe Castaner, speaking Sunday with Europe1-CNews-Les Echos, said he "perfectly (understood) the anger" of island residents. But he insisted that officials had known of the "extremely high risk" posed by the hurricane days in advance



Debris and wreckage litter the streets of La Baie residential, after the passing of Hurricane Irma, in Saint Martin, on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. Irma cut a path of devastation across the northern Caribbean, leaving thousands homeless after destroying buildings and uprooting trees. Significant damage was reported on the island that is split between French and Dutch control.

(AP Photo/Amandine Ascensio)

and had mobilized military and health care personnel in nearby Guadeloupe. Castaner said many islanders were suffering from "emotional shock, an impact that's extremely hard psychologically."

More than 1,000 tons of water and 85 tons of food along with fuel have been shipped to St. Martin and

St. Barts, and additional deliveries are expected in upcoming days, government officials in Guadeloupe said. Crews with heavy equipment and chain saws were clearing the roads of debris.

St. Martin's port of Marigot, which has been too dangerous to enter due to the scores of wrecked boats

either sunk or scattered across its shores, was to reopen Monday morning. A ship is expected to dock with a 5-ton crane capable of unloading large containers.

An increase in police and soldiers patrolling the streets has reduced the amount of looting.

Authorities in St. Martin have set up some 1,500 emergency shelters, doctors have treated around 100 people at a makeshift triage area and nearly 250 people have been evacuated, including seven facing medical emergencies, officials in Guadeloupe said.

The French military had positioned two frigates in the area ahead of the storm with helicopters ready to ferry supplies but the sheer violence of Irma seemed to take authorities by surprise. Far-right National Front party leader Marine Le Pen, who lost the presidency to Macron in May, accused

the French government of having "totally insufficient" emergency and security measures in place. Far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon and conservative politician Eric Ciotti called Sunday for a parliamentary inquiry into the government's handling of Irma, Macron's first major challenge.

The families of some island residents have taken to social media to voice similar criticisms.

Macron held emergency meetings Saturday and Sunday about Irma and its successor, Jose, and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe insisted that the government's support for Irma's victims isn't "empty words." "I am aware of the fear, the exhaustion and the anguish that the current situation is causing families in the Antilles and on the mainland," Philippe said. "We are completely mobilized to rescue, to accompany and to rebuild." □

At Press Time: Hurricane Irma largely spares Florida

A Miami woman who went into labor was guided through delivery by phone when authorities couldn't reach her in high winds and street flooding. Firefighters later took her to the hospital.

An apparent tornado spun off by Irma destroyed six mobile homes in Palm Bay, hundreds of miles away along the state's Atlantic coast. Flooding was reported along Interstate 4, which cuts across Florida's midsection.

In downtown Miami, two of the two dozen construction cranes looming over the skyline collapsed in the wind. No injuries were reported. City officials said it would have taken about two weeks to move the massive equipment.

Curfews were imposed in Miami, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and much of the rest of South Florida, and some arrests of violators were reported. Miami Beach barred outsiders from the island.

Fort Lauderdale police arrested nine people they said were caught on TV cameras looting sneakers and other items from a sporting goods store and a pawn shop during the hurricane.

More than 2.7 million homes and businesses across the state lost power, and utility officials said it will take

weeks to restore electricity to everyone.

While the projected track showed Irma raking the

in part because to many storm-hardened residents, staying behind in the face of danger is a point of

ing the afternoon, it rounded Florida's southwestern corner and hugged the coast closely as it pushed

tornadoes.

The Tampa-St. Petersburg area, with a population of about 3 million, has not taken a direct hit from a major hurricane since 1921.

The wind began picking up in St. Petersburg, some 400 miles north of the Keys, and people started bracing for the onslaught.

"I've been here with other storms, other hurricanes. But this one scares me," Sally Carlson said as she snapped photos of the waves crashing against boats. "Let's just say a prayer we hope we make it through."

Forecasters said a weakened Irma could push into Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and beyond. A tropical storm warning was issued for the first time ever in Atlanta, some 200 miles from the sea.

"Once this system passes through, it's going to be a race to save lives and sustain lives," Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Brock Long said on "Fox News Sunday." With FEMA still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Irma could test the agency's ability to handle two disasters at the same time.

President Donald Trump approved a disaster declaration for Florida, opening the way for federal aid. □



Waves crash over a seawall from Biscayne Bay as Hurricane Irma passes by, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Miami. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

state's Gulf Coast, forecasters warned that the entire state—including the Miami metropolitan area of 6 million people—was in danger because of the sheer size of the storm.

Nearly 7 million people in the Southeast were warned to evacuate, including 6.4 million in Florida alone.

About 30,000 people heeded orders to leave the Keys as the storm closed in, but an untold number refused,

pride.

John Huston, who stayed in his Key Largo home, watched his yard flood even before the arrival of high tide. "Small boats floating down the street next to furniture and refrigerators. Very noisy," he said by text message. "Shingles are coming off."

Irma made landfall just after 9 a.m. at Cudjoe Key, about 20 miles outside Key West, forecasters said. Dur-

toward Naples, Sanibel, Fort Myers and, beyond that, Sarasota, at 14 mph (23 kph).

Hurricane-force winds extended 80 miles (129 kilometers) from its center.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of WeatherBell Analytics said the entire Florida peninsula will be raked by Irma's right front quadrant—the part of a hurricane that usually brings the strongest winds, storm surge, rain and

Trump: US a 'bit lucky' Irma veered from original course

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that "we may have been a little bit lucky" after Hurricane Irma veered from its original course and headed along Florida's west coast, instead of east. He said that path might be less destructive.

He said Irma will "cost a lot of money" but that he's most concerned at this point with saving lives.

Trump commented hours after the nearly 400-mile-wide storm blew ashore early Sunday in the Florida Keys, made landfall on Marco Island on the state's

west coast and was barreling toward Tampa, which hasn't suffered a direct hit from a major hurricane in nearly 100 years.

He also spoke before state and local officials had begun to assess the damage. "We may have been a little bit lucky in that it went on the west and it may not have been quite as destructive, but we're going to see," Trump said, addressing reporters after returning to the White House from Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland where he spent the weekend monitoring the storm.

"It's going to play out over



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. Trump said Sunday that "we may have been a little bit lucky" after Hurricane Irma veered from its original course.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

the next five or six hours," said Trump, who was accompanied by his wife,

Melania.

Trump deflected questions about the billions of

dollars the government will be asked to spend to help communities in Florida and other affected states rebuild after Irma, saying "right now we're worried about lives, not cost."

Trump on Friday signed a \$15.3 billion measure to replenish accounts at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and speed federal assistance to victims of Hurricane Harvey, which struck southeast Texas and neighboring Louisiana towns just three weeks ago. The president made two trips to Texas after Harvey struck. He said Sunday that "we're going to Florida very soon." □

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Trump readies for first Sept. 11 commemoration as president

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will preside over his first 9/11 commemoration in office on Monday, a mostly solemn and nonpartisan occasion that may highlight his muddled claims about the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Trump and first lady Melania Trump planned to observe a moment of silence at the White House in remembrance of the nearly 3,000 people who were killed when hijackers flew commercial airplanes into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the White House said.

The morning remembrance was scheduled for about the time the first plane struck one of the Twin Towers on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. Trump and his wife also were to pay their respects at a Pentagon ceremony led by Defense Sec-



In this Friday, Sept. 8, 2017 photo, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, bottom, is surrounded by high-rise towers in New York. The new towers are: WTC 1, second from left, WTC 7, third from left, WTC 3, second from right, and WTC 4, right. Monday will mark the sixteenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

retary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The observances come as Trump grapples with the death and destruction caused by two hurricanes in

three weeks. Vice President Mike Pence was to represent the administration at an observance at the 9/11 memorial in Shanksville. A native New Yorker, Trump has a mixed history with

9/11. He frequently uses the terrorist strikes to praise the city's response but also makes unsubstantiated claims about what he did and saw on that day. Trump often lauds the brav-

ery of New York police officers, firefighters and other emergency responders who rushed to the Twin Towers, in some cases knowing they probably wouldn't make it out alive, as an example of the resilience of the city where he made a name for himself.

But Trump has criticized President George W. Bush's handling of the attacks, accusing his fellow Republican of failing to keep Americans safe.

Trump has also made dubious claims about Sept. 11, particularly saying when talking about Muslims that "thousands of people were cheering" in Jersey City, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from lower Manhattan, as the towers collapsed. There is no evidence in news archives of mass celebrations there by Muslims. Trump has also said he lost "hundreds of friends" in the attack and that he helped clear rubble afterward. □

Suspect in 4 slayings in Massachusetts to appear in court



In this Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, photo, police officers take Orion Krause, covered in a white sheet, to a police vehicle in Groton, Mass. The 22-year-old recent Oberlin College graduate and jazz drummer from Maine will face murder charges Monday in the slayings of four adults found at a Massachusetts home. (Courtesy via AP)

By CRYSTAL HILL

BOSTON (AP) — A 22-year-old recent Oberlin College graduate and jazz drummer from Maine will face murder charges Monday in the slayings of four adults found at a Massachusetts home.

Orion Krause, of Rockport, Maine is scheduled for arraignment in Ayer District Court in connection with the deaths of an elderly man and woman and two middle-aged women in Groton, a town about 43

miles (69 kilometers) northwest of Boston, the Middlesex district attorney's office said Sunday.

Town police found the man and two of the women dead inside the house and the other woman's body outside on Friday night. The victims' have yet to be identified.

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan said the victims appeared to have died of blunt force trauma. She called the situation "a tragic incident of family

violence" but it's unclear how Krause is related to the

victims.

Neighbor Wagner Alcocer, 52, unwittingly became a witness when the suspect showed up at his back door, naked and muddy, that evening and calmly told Alcocer he "just murdered four people," according to Alcocer.

Alcocer told The Associated Press that the suspect's eyes were "very red" and he had cuts on his body and blood above his eye and knee but was unarmed and seemed vulnerable.

"He looked like a nice kid who needed help, he was skinny (and) tall.

I thought he was the victim of the prank, or in an accident or had a mental health problem.

He wasn't bleeding profusely or anything," Alcocer said. □

Metal band members arrested in connection with kidnapping

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The four members of a well-known Polish death metal band have been arrested on suspicion of kidnapping a woman after a concert last month in Washington state, authorities said.

The members of the band Decapitated were arrested early Saturday in Santa Ana, California, on suspicion of kidnapping a woman after their Aug. 31 concert in Spokane, Spokane Police Department spokeswoman Cpl. Teresa Fuller said in a statement. The woman told police just before 2 a.m. on Sept. 1 about the alleged kidnapping by the band members, Fuller said.

The band had performed at a concert in downtown Spokane. The woman at-

tended the heavy metal concert, Fuller said.

Band members were arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office after their Friday night concert in Santa Ana, Fuller said. They are 27-year-old Michal M. Lysejko, 35-year-old Wacław J. Kieltyka, 31-year-old Rafał T. Piotrowski, and 30-year-old Hubert E. Wiecek.

All are Polish citizens.

"After they finished playing, they were kind of hanging out," Santa Ana police Sgt. Javier Aceves told the Orange County Register on Saturday.

"There was nothing dramatic."

They are being held in the Los Angeles County Jail and will face extradition to Spokane, Fuller said. □

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California officers' gunshot wounds result of friendly fire

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Bullet wounds suffered by two California police officers responding to a report of a man with a knife were the result of gunfire between the officers, authorities said.

Both officers were released from the hospital after being treated for minor injuries sustained during the confrontation in Huntington Beach on Thursday. The suspect, who was also shot, remained hospitalized

with non-life-threatening injuries. A preliminary investigation found the officers "were injured by friendly fire," according to a statement by the Orange County Sheriff's Department.



A detective stops for a moment to look again at the scene where two officers and one suspect were hospitalized after a call for a man with a knife turned into an officer-involved shooting in Huntington Beach, Calif., Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017.
(Ken Steinhardt/The Orange County Register via AP)

They were called to a residential neighborhood in the coastal city south of Los Angeles for a report of a man with a knife slashing fires. During a confrontation with the suspect, at least one of the officers opened fire, striking him. Both officers were hit as well. One offi-

cer was struck in the lower extremities, and the other higher in the body, officials said. A knife was recovered at the scene. The suspect's name was not released. The Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. □



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Homeowner facing charges in shooting that injured officer

WHITEHALL, Pa. (AP) — The owner of a vacant Pennsylvania home that had been burglarized faces charges after police say he apparently suspected someone was breaking into the property again, called 911 and then shot a police officer who responded. William Sturtevant, 46, said he mistook Whitehall Township police officers for burglars returning to the home, where someone had stolen copper pipes a day earlier, authorities said. Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin said Sturtevant was either sleeping or hiding in the home early

Saturday and called 911 when he thought he heard footsteps. Shortly after, two officers entered through an open basement door, but as they approached the staircase leading to the first floor, Sturtevant fired a shot down into the basement, Martin said. "It appears that he mistook the officers for the burglars that he anticipated encountering, but keep in mind that this was an unoccupied house and he used deadly force in an effort to protect property, which you can't do," Martin said, referring to the defendant's actions as those of a "vigilante." □

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Wildfire smoke clearing in US West as storms move through

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Storms brought cooler and wetter weather into the Western and Northwestern U.S. this weekend, breaking up a temperature inversion that had blanketed much of the region with acrid smoke from dozens of wildfires.

Officials at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise said this weekend they expected fire activity to decrease over the next several weeks. Center spokeswoman Kari Cobb says air quality should improve as the smoke-trapping inversion breaks up.

"We should see it lifting more today," she said Saturday.

"It's predicted to be mostly gone by tomorrow in most of the West."

The center says there are 67 active large wildfires being fought.

A look wildfires across the region:

MONTANA

Firefighters in drought-stricken Montana used sprinklers and hoses on Saturday to try to protect strategic locations near some of the over two dozen wildfires burning in the state that have forced more people from their homes.

A "rain for rent" system was being used in Glacier National Park, including around Lake McDonald Lodge, to increase humidity in the immediate area. That means firefighters were using sprinklers to recharge a swamp on the perimeter of a 176-square-mile (456-square-kilometer) fire burning near Seeley Lake. About a dozen people were ordered to evacuate their homes Friday night after very warm and dry conditions pushed a 37-square-mile (93-square-



In this Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, photo, neighbors watch a wildfire burn through residential areas near the mouth of Weber Canyon near Ogden, Utah.

(Benjamin Zack/Standard-Examiner via AP)

kilometer) fire near Lincoln toward them.

IDAHO

At least four high school football games were cancelled Friday and another 13 postponed due to smoke from wildfires that the state Department of Health and Welfare said was so bad children and teens should be kept indoors and activities like football and soccer avoided.

Some of those games were rescheduled for Saturday, and state officials said air quality conditions had improved enough that they lifted a statewide Air Quality Forecast and Caution. Officials say the fire on Saturday had consumed about 126 square miles (326 square kilometers).

WASHINGTON

A 165-square-mile (427-square-kilometer) wildfire burning within the Pasayten Wilderness about 12 miles (19 kilometers) north of Mazama is the largest wildfire in Washington state. It also crossed

the border into Canada late last month with flames fueled by heavy dead and down timber.

Officials say the fire is about 40 percent contained but rugged terrain is hampering firefighting efforts. About 200 firefighters are assigned to that fire.

OREGON

A wildfire burning in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is holding at about 52 square miles (135 square kilometers) but residents in communities in three counties remain under evacuation notices and those in other communities have been told to be ready to flee.

Officials say firefighters set

fires on Friday to burn fuel ahead of the blaze and have greatly reduced the danger of the fire's spread to the north.

Officials say the fire has burned in a mosaic pattern, and some areas within the perimeter of the fire have trees that should survive, keeping at least some of the scenic gorge green.

CALIFORNIA

A wildfire burning for more than two weeks in far northwestern California continues to chew through timber even as crews increase containment.

Officials said Saturday that the blaze near Helena, a rural community that was once a 19th century mining camp, has consumed nearly 32 square miles (83 square kilometers) of forest. It's 40 percent contained. Evacuation orders remain in place for several homes. In Central California, a fire on the western edge of the Sierra is half contained after burning nearly 40 square miles (102 square kilometers) of dry brush and trees near Springville. □

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Former UK leader advises immigration curbs instead of Brexit

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former Prime Minister Tony Blair is not giving up his campaign to prevent Britain from leaving the European Union, using a Sunday Times article to propose that Britain instead toughen its rules on EU immigration.

The outspoken Brexit opponent says reducing immigration from EU countries into Britain would satisfy many who voted in favor of Brexit in the June, 2016 referendum without subjecting the country to the economic havoc it would face if it leaves the 28-nation bloc.

Blair, who led the Labour Party to three consecutive electoral victories, admits his government okayed the open door policy that brought many eastern Europeans to Britain after their countries joined the EU in 2004. He said times — and economic conditions — have changed, making it mandatory for stiff new controls to be put in place. "There can be no change



In this Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016 photo, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is interviewed in New York. The longtime Brexit opponent said Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, that controlling immigration from other EU countries would satisfy the British public's demands without having to take Britain out of the 28-nation bloc. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

to Brexit unless we confront the underlying causes of it," Blair said, conceding that the referendum vote showed a widespread feeling that unchecked immigration was forcing wages down, straining public services, and — particularly

when it involves conservative Muslims — raising questions of cultural integration. Blair's intervention comes as Parliament prepares to vote Monday on a Brexit bill that would eventually convert large swaths of EU law into British law once Brexit is

finalized, which is expected early in 2019.

His predecessor, former Prime Minister John Major of the Conservative Party, has also warned about the negative consequences of Brexit.

Blair said many senior poli-

ticians know that leaving the EU is a grave error that will cause deep economic hardship but feel "trapped" by the referendum vote and as a result are supporting Brexit even though they don't believe in it.

His proposal is based on the concept that the will of the people can be respected if EU immigration is substantially cut both by a series of new rules and by negotiations with EU leaders.

Blair's proposal would require EU immigrants to register upon arrival in Britain so officials can find out whether they find jobs or study. It would also require EU nationals to prove they have a confirmed job offer before they can settle in Britain, and ban those without permission from renting property, opening a bank account, or claiming benefits.

In addition, it would make it harder for immigrants to qualify for the National Health Service and allow universities to charge EU nationals higher tuition rates. □

Merkel, other German leaders dismiss Turkish travel warning

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel and other senior German politicians on Sunday dismissed a travel warning for their country issued by Turkey amid persistent tensions between the two nations.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry cited increased right-wing

and racist rhetoric before Germany's Sept. 24 election in the warning it circulated Saturday.

The countries are at odds over Turkey's detention of at least 10 Germans on what Berlin considers political grounds, among them two journalists.

Other strains include local German authorities' refusal earlier this year to allow rallies by Turkish politicians ahead of a referendum on the Turkish president's powers. In response, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Germany of "committing Nazi prac-

tices."

During a televised pre-election debate a week ago, Merkel said Turkey was departing from democratic practices at "breakneck speed." Her center-left challenger, Martin Schulz, said he would seek to end Turkey's membership talks

with the European Union.

On Sunday, Merkel rejected the premise of the Turkish travel warning, news agency dpa reported.

"I want to say very clearly here that every Turkish citizen can travel to us," she said at a rally in Delbrück in western Germany. □

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Stateless Mikheil Saakashvili breaks through into Ukraine



Former Georgian President and former Ukraine official, Mikheil Saakashvili speaks on a mobile phone in the south-eastern city of Rzeszow, Poland, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, before setting off in an attempt to return to Ukraine although both his Ukrainian and Georgia passports are no longer valid.

(AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)

By DMYTRO VLASOV
Associated Press

SHEHYNI, Ukraine (AP) — Mikheil Saakashvili and a small crowd of supporters shoved their way through a line of guards on the Ukrainian border Sunday, making good on the politician's vow to return to the land that had stripped him of citizenship.

The return of the divisive and headstrong Saakashvili, who became governor of Ukraine's Odessa region after being Georgian president from 2004-13, poses a strong challenge to Ukrainian Petro Poroshenko, who once was Saakashvili's patron but then revoked his citizenship in July.

Saakashvili was appointed to the Odessa post in 2015 on the strength of his record of fighting corruption in Georgia.

However he resigned the post after only 18 months, complaining that official corruption was so entrenched he could not work effectively.

The return also carries risk for Saakashvili, who is stateless.

Georgia, where he faces accusations of abuse of power and misappropriation of property, has sent an extradition request for him to Ukraine. It is not clear if Ukraine intends to honor that request.

The border breakthrough at the Medyka-Shehyni crossing point on the Polish-Ukrainian border came after a day of drama and repeatedly changing plans. Saakashvili had intended to travel through another crossing point, where hundreds of supporters had gathered on the Ukrainian side. But he changed his plans at midday Sunday, claiming fears that provocateurs on the Ukrainian side were gearing up for

violence.

He then traveled to the Polish city of Przemyśl, where he boarded a train bound for the western Ukraine city of Lviv. But the train was held at the station for hours — and then announced that it would not leave with a person who had no permission to enter Ukraine. Saakashvili and his entourage eventually got off the train and took buses to the Medyka crossing, where Polish guards let him

through. After passing the Polish checkpoint, he was confronted by cars blocking the road and a single line of guards in camouflage, carrying batons. The crowd approached the line of guards and eventually began shoving, then broke through. Supporters who had gathered on the Ukrainian side rushed forward to greet Saakashvili and the crowd proceeded toward the Ukrainian town of Shehyni on foot. □

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Russian envoy visits Saudi Arabia for Syria, Gulf talks

By ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI

AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— The Saudi king and Russia's foreign minister met in Saudi Arabia on Sunday ahead of a possible visit by the monarch to Russia next month.

King Salman greeted Sergey Lavrov at his summer palace in the Red Sea city of Jiddah before the Russian envoy's meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The king's 32-year-old son and heir to the throne, who oversees Saudi energy and defense

policy, visited Russia in May to boost ties between the world's two top oil producers.

Saudi Arabia's state news agency said the monarch and Lavrov discussed the wars in Syria and Yemen, as well as an Arab diplomatic crisis with Qatar.

Russia and Saudi Arabia back warring sides in Syria's conflict, with the kingdom supporting Sunni rebel groups fighting the Syrian government, which is backed by Moscow and Shiite-ruled Iran. In a brief press conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel



In this photo released by Saudi Press Agency, SPA, Saudi King Salman, right, receives the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at Al-Salam Palace in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday Sept. 10, 2017. (Saudi Press Agency via AP)

al-Jubeir in Jiddah, Lavrov said Russia supports Saudi Arabia's efforts to unite the Syrian opposition into one group.

Lavrov is scheduled to visit Jordan next. Last month, the Arab diplomatic crisis with Qatar drew Lavrov to

the region, where he met with leaders in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Over the weekend, Saudi Arabia's crown prince and Qatar's ruling emir spoke for the first time since a diplomatic crisis erupted in

June, but the call only led to further public squabbling. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar over its ties with Islamist groups and relations with Iran. The four also accuse Qatar of supporting extremist groups. □

Iraq holding hundreds of IS family members

By BALINT SZLANKO

SALAR SALIM

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)

— Iraqi forces are holding more than 1,300 foreign women and children, the families of Islamic State fighters, at a camp for displaced people in northern Iraq.

The 1,333 individuals, from 14 countries, surrendered to Kurdish forces at the end of August after an Iraqi offensive drove the extremist group from the northern town of Tal Afar, near Mo-

sul, Iraqi security officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with military protocol.

They say the women and children will not be charged with crimes and will likely be repatriated to their home countries. Most hail from Central Asia, Russia and Turkey, but the group also includes people from as far away as Japan and South Korea.

Tens of thousands of foreigners traveled to Iraq

and Syria to live in the IS group's self-styled Islamic caliphate. The territory under their control has rapidly shrunk over the past two years as Iraqi and Syrian forces have retaken several cities and towns.

"We couldn't practice our religion in Azerbaijan. We couldn't wear the niqab (a veil that covers the face) because there were intelligence officers everywhere," said Feyruza, who is originally from Dagestan in Russia. □

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Syrian army in race with US-armed fighters for eastern Syria



In this July 22, 2017 photo, Arab and Kurdish fighters with the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), pose for a picture as they prepare to move to the front line to battle against the Islamic State militants, in Raqqa, northeast Syria.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

By BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S.-backed Syrian fighters launched an offensive against the Islamic State group in eastern Syria along the border with Iraq on Saturday, bringing them into a race with government forces marching in the same direction against the extremists in their last major holdout in the war-torn country.

The dueling battles for Deir el-Zour highlight the importance of the oil-rich eastern province, which has become the latest focus of the international war against the Islamic State group, raising concerns of an eventual clash between the two sides.

The U.S.-trained Deir el-Zour Military Council said it was calling its operation Jazeera Storm, after the familiar name for northeast Syria. The Military Council is a part of the predominantly-Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, which enjoys broad U.S. military support. The SDF are the U.S.'s primary ally in the fight against IS in Syria.

The race to reach the Iraqi border will shape future regional dynamics, determining whether the United

States or Russia and Iran will have more influence in the strategic area once the extremist group is defeated. Iran has been one of President Bashar Assad's strongest backers since the crisis began in March 2011 and has sent thousands of Iranian-backed fighters and advisers to fight against insurgent groups trying to remove him from power.

The U.S.-backed fighters are up against a huge challenge to reach Deir el-Zour, especially while they are still fighting to liberate Raqqa from IS. Three months into the battle, they have liberated around 60 percent of the city, and much more difficult urban fighting still lies ahead.

This week, Syrian troops and their Iranian-backed allies reached Deir el-Zour, breaking a nearly three-year-old IS siege on government-held parts of the city in a major breakthrough in their offensive against IS. In a victory statement, the Syrian military said Deir el-Zour will be used as a launching pad to liberate the remaining IS-held areas along the border with Iraq.

Pro-government forces broke the siege of the city's airport on Saturday, state

media reported.

The troops' arrival to Deir el-Zour city brings Syrian forces and their allies a step closer to controlling the oil-rich eastern province and its capital bordering Iraq, a major boost for Tehran's growing influence in the area. The region has some of Syria's largest oil fields, whose revenue is vital to the state's dried coffers.

Syria's military command announced Saturday they

had captured the province's Taym oil field from IS militants on Saturday.

Washington has been determined to block the formation of an "Iranian corridor" — of Shiite-controlled land stretching from Tehran to Damascus — and for months has been eyeing the area southeast of Raqqa near the Iraqi border. U.S.-backed Syrian rebels had been gathering in Tanf in southeastern Syria

to march toward Deir el-Zour, but their plans were disrupted in June when Syrian troops reached the border with Iraq, obstructing their path. The only way left for the SDF to enter the eastern province appears to be from the northeastern province of Hassakeh, where Syrian activists say the U.S.-backed fighters have been gathering and stepping up preparations for an attack. □

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Pope arrival in Cartagena off to bumpy start with black eye



Pope Francis greets the faithful with a bruise on his face after he knocked his head on the popemobile, in Cartagena, Colombia, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said that "The pope is fine" but has "a bruise on his cheekbone and eyebrow."

(Alberto Pizzoli/Pool via AP)

By **NICOLE WINFIELD**
Associated Press
CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) — Pope Francis wrapped up his Colombia trip with a deeply personal final day Sunday honoring St. Peter Claver, a fellow Jesuit who ministered to hundreds of thousands of African slaves who arrived in the port of Cartagena to

be sold during Spanish colonial times. Francis' visit to Cartagena got off to a rocky start, however, when he banged his head on his popemobile when it stopped short amid swarms of well-wishers. Francis, who only had a hip-high bar to hold onto, lost his balance and suffered a bruised, black left

eye and a cut on his eyebrow that dripped blood onto his white cassock. The cut was quickly bandaged with a butterfly patch and Francis carried on without incident with his program. Devotees reacted to the wound with a mix of amazement and concern. "This holy blood is staying

in Colombia," said Ricardo Morales, a lawyer who lined up outside St. Peter Claver's church for a glimpse of the pope.

"He made a great effort to be here and from now on it's our obligation to make a similar effort to thank him for everything he has done."

Once recovered, Francis visited the St. Peter Claver church, where he praised the 17th century missionary for having recognized the inherent dignity of slaves. Francis, known for his own simple and austere style, said Claver was "austere and charitable to the point of heroism."

Claver, the self-described "slave of the slaves forever," has been revered by Jesuits, popes and human rights campaigners for centuries for having insisted on treating slaves as children of God and worthy of love when others considered them mere merchandise to be bought and sold.

In a prayer Sunday in front of Claver's church, Francis said the legacy of the Spanish priest should serve as a model for the Catholic Church today to "promote

the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, particularly the poor and the excluded of society, those who are abandoned, immigrants and those who suffer violence and human trafficking."

"Here in Colombia and in the world, millions of people are still being sold as slaves; they either beg for some expressions of humanity, moments of tenderness, or they flee by sea or land because they have lost everything, primarily their dignity and their rights," he said.

Like Claver, history's first Latin American pope has insisted on ministering to society's most marginal. He takes special care of the homeless who live around the Vatican, makes regular phone calls to prisoners, brought a dozen Syrian refugees home with him from a Greek refugee camp, and embraces the sick, the maimed and the deformed every chance he gets. He has also strongly denounced current-day slave trade, calling human trafficking a crime against humanity and leading other faith leaders to take a united stand against it. □

Brazil businessman turns himself into police in graft probe

By **SARAH DILORENZO**
Associated Press
SAO PAULO (AP) — The former chairman of the world's largest meatpacker, whose testimony implicated Brazil's president in corruption, turned himself in to police Sunday after the country's Supreme Court ordered his arrest.

Joesley Batista has avoided prosecution under a plea bargain deal in which he described how meatpacking giant JBS had bribed dozens of politicians, including President Michel

Temer. Earlier this year, Temer was charged with corruption for allegedly orchestrating a scheme in which he would get payouts totaling millions of dollars for helping JBS resolve a business issue. Temer denies wrongdoing, and Congress voted in August that he would not stand trial on the charge while in office.

But Brazil's sprawling probe into the massive trade in bribes and kickbacks for favors between companies and politicians, known as

Operation Car Wash, continues to churn out new allegations on almost a daily basis. Just this week the country's chief prosecutor, Rodrigo Janot, filed charges against three former presidents and several other powerful politicians, accusing them of forming criminal organizations to pilfer from public coffers, and authorities detained a former Cabinet minister and close ally of Temer after \$16 million in cash was found in an apartment linked to him.

Janot also has said he plans to file more charges against Temer. To do so, he'll need to act in the coming days since his terms ends on Sept. 18.

But the specter that Batista and others withheld information could cast a pall over the Car Wash investigation, which has relied heavily on plea bargain deals, a fairly new innovation here. Many in Brazil are uneasy with the agreements, in general, and the deals JBS executives got provoked specific outrage

from those who thought they were too lenient.

Janot said last week that he is investigating whether Batista and other cooperating witnesses omitted some information from their testimony and he has threatened to revoke the deals if they didn't tell the whole truth. The revelation came after Janot's office received audio of a conversation between Batista and Ricardo Saud, an executive at J&F Investimentos, the holding company that controls JBS. □

LOCAL



Oruba: 'Our Local Musicians Have a Lot of Potential'

ORANJESTAD- On the road to Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2017 -that is on for 15 and 16 September-, Aruba Today has the opportunity to introduce to you one of the local bands that make part of this event. Oruba is a group of musicians, brought together by Reno Steba.

Since a while, Steba had in his mind to form a group of local artists and he made this dream reality in 2012. "The musicians we have in the band now complete Oruba since last year. We have Johnny Scharbaay at piano, Lidrick Solognier on tambu, Ipi Martis playing cuarta, Arthur Kelly plays the wiri, Serghio Jansen at guitar, Susjaira Kerpens and Darien Quandus form the vocalist duo, Jeremy Bonariba hits the drums and myself at the banjo."

Connected Generations

Most of them know each other since a long time already. Like Ipi Martis and Steba who already played gaita together. Gaita is



played around Christmas time. Johnny Scharbaay used to be Steba's piano student when he was a kid and drummer Jeremy's dad is a good friend of Steba since way back. Oruba is actually a mix of several generations, which makes it a group for everybody. A group with a heart for music and Aruba and -also im-

sure. It is a way of connection we would like to set as an example for others too", says Steba.

Aruba on the Map

There was a need for a group artists that present Aruba abroad, is Steba's opinion. "I played for 30 years abroad, and was always presented as Reno



That was my trigger to form a group out of these talents, so we can present us in this way abroad." The other reason to form this band is to cherish and honor the authentic Aruban sounds. "I can recruit artists from Holland or other countries, but it will not be the same as they do not know our local instruments as local artists do."

Fusion of Sounds

The style of their music is influenced by several sounds coming from the history and heritage of Aruba's music. There is an Indian influence, better known as Caiquetio and Arawak. "I did some research and so far there is no recording of the typical Caiquetian music. We do know they were fishermen that came back

from their work at night and danced and sang together at the sounds of tambu and cuarta." Steba also played music at Morocco and encountered some musical elements that fit perfect in Aruba's music style, for instance the parts with the banjo. Also music vibes from Curacao are inserted, coming originally from Africa. You might see the band's music as a fusion of several elements which makes it a unique sound. "The name of the band, Oruba, refers to the Indians that were the first inhabitants of the island and named like that.

Oruba will perform 15th of September at the stage of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival. More information: Facebook Caribbean Sea Jazz. □



music that derives originally from Venezuela, but has gotten more and more popular here and mixed with Aruban flavors it is

portant- with an extensive offer of instruments. "The older musicians stimulate the younger ones and the younger ones inspire us for

Steba from Aruba. I played at all festivals in Aruba and I noticed that local musicians are growing and becoming more professional.

Aruba Reaches Out to Our Sister Island of St. Maarten

ORANJESTAD - The Aruban community shows their humanity and empathy for the victims of hurricane Irma, not only in words but also in deeds.

The Dutch Ministry of Defense transported 67 dialyses patients with urgency to Aruba last Friday night, and they are now taken care of in our hospital. At the same time Arubans donated an enormous amount of needed goods for these victims. Towels, clothing, tooth paste and soap were some of the goods that were donated in big numbers by Arubans this past weekend. This to help and support the patients that stay in medical center Imsan in San Nicolas.



help at among other the Facebook page of Bon-Dia24 Aruba. St. Theresita Center at San Nicolas as well as Red Cross opened their doors for the collection of donations. Daisy Tchong was working as volunteer at St. Theresita Center. "When I saw what happened at our sister island,

why not reach out and help?" Janine Rodriguez of Victims Aid asked people to bring clothing like pajamas as those were most needed. The comments of people on the live video at St. Theresita Center by Bon Dia 24 Aruba this weekend were heartwarming. □



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The honorees were Mr. Scott and Mrs. Tina Myers, celebrating their 20th consecutive annual visit to Aruba!

Scott and Tina are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, fun in the sun, the climate, the beaches and the restaurants. They say that being on Aruba and staying at the Marriott Ocean Club is like being at their vacation 'home-away-from-home.'

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SPORTS



Seattle Seahawks' Michael Bennett remains seated on the bench during the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

Kaepernick's frat and players protest on 1st NFL Sunday

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Colin Kaepernick's protest movement rolled on without him Sunday, as his fraternity marched in Detroit and players around the NFL sat or knelt during the national anthem.

Kaepernick remains unsigned after opting out of his contract with the 49ers. His supporters believe he's being punished for protesting police brutality by refusing to stand during the national anthem last season.

About 50 members of the Kappa Alpha Psi alumni chapter in Detroit marched about a mile Sunday in a peaceful protest that ended just outside Ford Field, where the Lions hosted the Arizona Cardinals.

"When you look at some of the recent incidents like what happened to Michael Bennett in Las Vegas, it validates the stance that Colin Kaepernick has taken," said Eric Brown, a former president of the fraternity's alumni chapter in Detroit.

Continued on Page 21

STEEL HURTIN'



AB's clutch catch gives Steelers win over Browns

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) celebrates a first down catch as Cleveland Browns defensive back Jason McCourty (30) watches during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Cleveland.

Associated Press
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New York Yankees' Aaron Judge points skyward on his way to crossing home plate after hitting a solo home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017.

Judge, Sanchez 2 homers each in Yankees' 16-7 win at Texas

BY **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP SPORTS WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) -- Aaron Judge reacted with a sense of awe about the company of Yankees legends the young slugger joined with his 40-homer season.

"Pretty surreal. Never as a kid did I think that I would be in the same sentence with those guys," Judge said. "It's quite an honor. It's pretty humbling."

The 25-year-old Judge homered twice Sunday in New York's series-clinching 16-7 win at Texas, becoming only the second major league rookie with a 40-homer season. He also joined Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio and

Mickey Mantle as the only Yankees to hit 40 homers at age 25 or younger.

Gary Sanchez also hit two homers for the AL wild card-leading Yankees, giving him 30 this season and 50 in 161 games since his 2015 debut.

"It's incredible what they've both done," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Mark McGwire hit a league-high 49 homers as a rookie for Oakland in 1987, and Judge - who leads the AL with 41 - remembers following Big Mac.

"Especially when he was in that home run hunt, with Sammy Sosa, it was fun to watch," Judge said. "It was pretty cool to see as a kid. To be in the same category with him, it's pretty special." Judge had his fourth multi-homer game this year, his first since June 11. He has four homers in seven games since breaking a homerless skid of 57 at-bats and 15 games that stretched back to Aug. 16.

"He's a big strong guy, he's capable of doing some special things," Brett Gardner said. "He's a big reason why we're right on the Red Sox."

Didi Gregorius tied a career high with four hits while driving in four runs for the Yankees (77-65), who have won three straight series for the first time since late July and moved 12 games over .500 for the first time since June 15. New York is 3½ games ahead of Minnesota for the AL's top wild card and 3½ games behind AL East-leading Boston.

After dropping two of three, the Rangers (71-71) were still 2½ games behind the Twins with three weeks left.

"Any loss at this point is bad," Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus said. "The main focus for us now is to keep winning series."

Judge's second homer of the game ricocheted off a facade high above the Yankees bullpen in left-center field, and the ball then dropped among the relievers. That drive in the sixth would have gone 463 feet unimpeded, according to MLB's Statcast.

His first homer two innings earlier capped a six-run outburst for a 9-1 lead, landing in the Rangers bullpen in right-center field. Along with the homers, Judge's walk in the second was his MLB rookie-record 107th this season, and he had a sacrifice fly.

"That just shows he's more than a home run hitter," Girardi said.

"With the team I've got around me, all I've got to do is get on base for them and they're going to drive me in," Judge said. "My goal all year is if I can get on with a knock or a walk, they'll do the rest."

PITCHERS OF RECORD

Chad Green (4-0) struck out four in 2 1/3 innings after taking over for starter Jordan Montgomery in the fourth. ... Texas starter A.J. Griffin (6-6) gave up five runs pitching into the fourth. Reliever Nick Martinez then allowed four consecutive hits before a double-play grounder and Judge's first homer.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: Manager Joe Girardi expects OF Clint Frazier, on the DL since Aug. 9 with a left oblique strain, to rejoin the Yankees this week from his injury rehab assignment at Double-A Trenton. □

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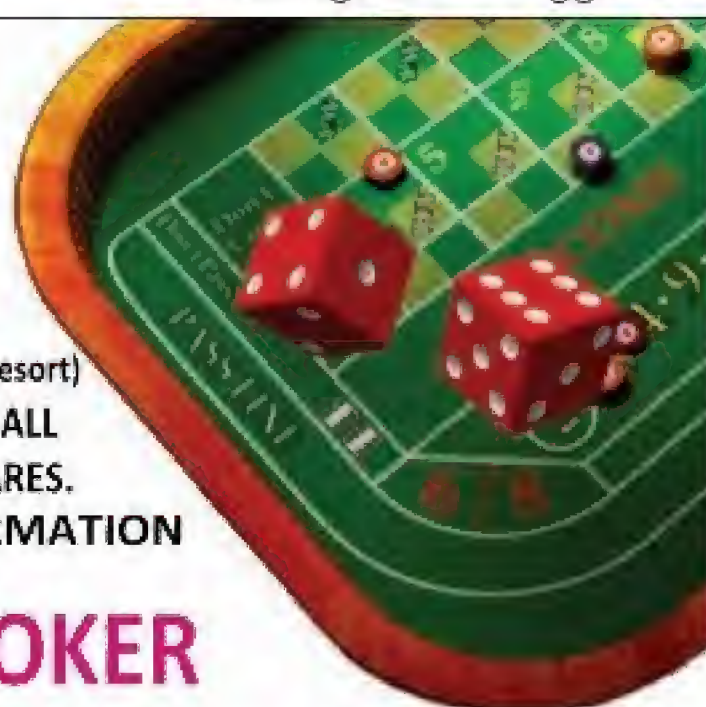
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Sweet 16: Nadal beats Anderson for 3rd U.S. Open, 16th major

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rafael Nadal against Kevin Anderson in the U.S. Open final shaped up as quite a mismatch — and that's exactly what it was.

His game at a high level at the end of an unusually easy path through a Grand Slam field, Nadal overwhelmed first-time major finalist Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to win his third championship at Flushing Meadows.

It is the No. 1-ranked Nadal's second Grand Slam title of the year and 16th overall. Among men, only Roger Federer has more, with 19.

Each of those two longtime rivals won two of the four majors in 2017, marking a return of both to the heights of their sport.

Not only didn't an injury-hampered Nadal win a Grand Slam tournament in 2015 or 2016 — his first such shutouts since 2004, when he was still a teenager — but he didn't even make it to a final in that span. Seems safe to say that, at age 31, he is once again the Nadal of old.

"Personally, it's just unbelievable what happened this year," Nadal said, "after a couple of years with some troubles, injuries, some moments playing not good."

At No. 32, Anderson was the lowest-ranked U.S. Open men's finalist since the ATP computer rankings began in 1973. The 31-year-old South African never had been past the quarterfinals at any major tournament in 33 previous appearances, so when he won his semifinal on Friday, he climbed into the stands to celebrate.

There would be no such joy for him on this day. Nadal simply dominated every facet of the 2½-hour final.

"I know we're the same age, but I feel like I've been watching you my whole life," said Anderson, who is less than a month older than Nadal. "You really have been an idol of mine. And it's tough playing you. You proved it again to-

night."

Nadal added to his U.S. Open triumphs in 2010 and 2013 and improved to 16-7 in Grand Slam finals. For the first time since 2013, he appeared in three in a single season, losing to Federer at the Australian Open in January, then beating Stan Wawrinka for his record 10th French Open trophy in June.

Nadal's career haul also includes two trophies from Wimbledon and one from the Australian Open. All of his big victories have come while being coached by his uncle, Toni, who is now stepping aside. The U.S. Open was the last Grand Slam event of their partnership.

Not since Pete Sampras at Wimbledon in 2000 had a man won a Slam tournament without facing any opponents ranked in the top 20.

In New York this time, the bracket was weakened by the injury withdrawals of three of the top five men: past champions Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Wawrinka.

Plus, Nadal did not need to deal with Federer: The potential for a semifinal, which would have been their first U.S. Open meeting, was dashed when Juan Martin del Potro eliminated Federer in the quarterfinals. Nadal then beat del Potro, the 2009 champion but now ranked 28th, in the semis.

Much like Nadal's 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 win against Wawrinka at Roland Garros, the only beauty of this match was not in its competitiveness — not by a long shot — but in an appreciation for one participant's absolute superiority.

Forehands whipped up the line.

Two-handed backhands ripped cross-court with ferocity. The spinning, back-to-the-net returns of serves that darted in at him at more than 130 mph (210 kph) and helped him break Anderson four times.

He even came up with some terrific volleys, winning the point on all 16 of his trips to the net. Anderson, meanwhile, finished

16 for 34 in that category. Another difference-maker: Nadal never faced a break point, although that was more a reflection of his talent once the ball was in play than any particularly dominant serving.

With Nadal standing way back to receive serves, nearly backing into the line judges, he neutralized Anderson's most effective skill. Anderson came in having won 103 of 108 service games across six matches, but Nadal accumulated break points at will from the get-go — two in a six-deuce game at 1-all, another two in a five-deuce game at 2-all.

Anderson began trying to end points quickly with a volley. Two problems with that: Anderson is not usual-



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, holds up the championship trophy after beating Kevin Anderson, of South Africa, in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in New York.

Associated Press

ly a serve-and-volleyer and so is no expert at that tactic; Nadal is superb at summoning passing shots at extreme speeds and angles.

especially when facing the sort of target provided by the 6-foot-8 (2.03-meter) Anderson, the tallest Grand Slam finalist in history. □

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Fournette, strong defense lead Jaguars over Texans 29-7

By The Associated Press
HOUSTON (AP) — Leonard Fournette ran for 100 yards and a touchdown in his NFL debut, and Jacksonville had 10 sacks and forced four turnovers to help the Jaguars to a 29-7 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday. The Texans hoped to provide a boost to the area ravaged by Hurricane Harvey with a win. Instead, Tom Savage struggled behind a porous line and was benched in favor of rookie Deshaun Watson at half-time with Houston down 19-0.

Blake Bortles threw for 125 yards and a touchdown, Calais Campbell had four sacks and Dante Fowler returned a fumble 53 yards for a score as the Jaguars snapped a six-game skid against Houston.

J.J. Watt returned after missing 13 games last season after back surgery, but injured his finger in the first half and finished with just one tackle.

The Texans punted on their first four possessions, and the fifth one ended when Savage fumbled on a sack by Yannick Ngakoue and the Jaguars recovered the ball. Fournette, the fourth overall pick in this year's draft, added his 1-yard touchdown after that.

Savage was sacked six times in the first half, playing behind a line without veteran left tackle Duane Brown, who is holding out. Houston linebacker Brian Cushing, tight ends Ryan Griffin and C.J. Fiedorowicz and receiver Bruce Ellington all left the game with concussions. Jaguars receiver Allen Robinson injured his left knee in the first quarter and didn't return.

STEELERS 21, BROWNS 18



Jacksonville Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette (27) is hit by Houston Texans defensive end Joel Heath (93) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in Houston.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to tight end Jesse James as the Steelers, with minimal help from Le'Veon Bell, opened the season by holding off the Browns.

Roethlisberger improved to 21-2 against the Browns, who gave their rivals all they could handle — a positive sign for coach Hue Jackson and Cleveland fans after a horrid 1-15 season.

But the Browns couldn't stop All-Pro wide receiver Antonio Brown, who made a leaping catch in traffic for 38 yards with 2:26 left to seal Pittsburgh's win. Brown finished with 11 receptions for 182 yards.

Browns rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer had pulled the Browns within three on a 3-yard TD pass to Corey Coleman followed by a 2-point conversion.

The Browns have lost 13 straight openers. Cleveland's defense played well despite not having top overall pick Myles Garrett, who injured his ankle earlier

this week.

Bell, who skipped training camp in a contract dispute, ran tentatively and gained just 32 yards on 10 carries. He rejoined his teammates last week and signed his \$12.1 million franchise tag, far less than he feels he deserves.

FALCONS 23, BEARS 17

CHICAGO (AP) — Matt Ryan threw an 88-yard touchdown to Austin Hooper and led two fourth-quarter scoring drives as the NFC champions held on.

The butt of jokes following their epic Super Bowl collapse against New England, the Falcons survived as the Bears had a first down at the Atlanta 5 in the closing minute. Mike Glennon's pass to a lunging Josh Bellamy on first down hit off the receiver's hands, and Jordan Howard then dropped a simple catch at the 1.

After another incompleteness on third down, Glennon got sacked by Brooks Reed.

Atlanta was clinging to a 13-10 lead early in the

fourth when a scrambling Ryan fired to a wide-open Hooper near midfield. The second-year tight end from Stanford raced up the right side and stiff-armed Quintin Demps on the way to the end zone. The Bears then went 75 yards, with Glennon hitting rookie Tarik Cohen for a 19-yard TD midway through the fourth to cut it to 20-17. Atlanta's Matt Bryant answered with a 37-yard field goal, making it 23-17. Coming off an MVP season, Ryan was 21 of 30 for 321 yards and a touchdown. Hooper had two catches for 128 yards.

RAIDERS 26, TITANS 16

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Derek Carr threw for 262 yards and two touchdowns, and Carr won his third straight against Marcus Mariota and the Titans in as many years.

Amari Cooper caught a TD pass as the Raiders made the Titans pay for opening the season with an onside kick they couldn't recover. Marshawn Lynch also looked very refreshed after

his year away from football. Lynch finished with 18 carries for 76 yards.

Giorgio Tavecchio kicked field goals of 20, 52, 52 and 43 yards in his NFL debut. He was signed Friday to fill in for the Raiders' all-time leading scorer and 18-year veteran Sebastian Janikowski, who's on injured reserve with a bad back. Tavecchio has spent time in training camp with the Raiders the past four seasons but had never kicked in a regular-season game.

Both Carr and Mariota broke their right leg hours apart on Christmas Eve for season-ending injuries. Mariota also looked healthy in running for a 10-yard TD and threw for 191 yards.

EAGLES 30, REDSKINS 17

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) — Carson Wentz threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns as the second-year quarterback guided the Eagles in a sloppy, mistake-filled season opener.

Wentz was 26 of 39 and threw an interception that Ryan Kerrigan returned for a touchdown. But Wentz made fewer errors than Washington's Kirk Cousins, who was picked off at the goal line and fumbled twice. Cousins' second fumble was forced by Brandon Graham and returned 20 yards for a touchdown by Fletcher Cox in the final minutes, putting the game away.

Cousins finished 23 of 40 for 240 yards with a TD pass to third-down back Chris Thompson. He was under duress all day because and was sacked four times.

Wentz wasn't perfect, though his evading a sack and throw to Nelson Agholor for a 58-yard touchdown set the stage for his big day. □



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Kaepernick's

Continued from Page 17

Brown said Kappa Alpha Psi planned to have similar gatherings in Dallas and Atlanta before future NFL games. San Francisco safety Eric Reid knelt for the anthem with several teammates standing around him. Reid joined Kaepernick in the anthem protest last season. He did not kneel at the start of the preseason but resumed his protest following the rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, last month that involved a loosely connected mix of white nationalists, neo-Nazis and other far-right extremists.

Bennett recently released a statement alleging racially motivated excessive force against him by Las Vegas police. The Seattle defensive end sat on the bench during the national anthem before Sunday's game at Green Bay. Bennett sat for the national anthem during the preseason as well, with teammate Justin Britt standing next to him with his hand on his shoulder. Britt again stood next to Bennett during his anthem protest Sunday. Defensive linemen Frank Clark and Cliff Avril each went back during the anthem to shake hands with Bennett.

On the other sideline at about the 30 yard-line, Bennett's younger brother Martellus, a tight end for the Packers, stood at the end of the line next to his teammates, but raised his right fist in the air during the anthem.

Green Bay safety Ha Ha

Clinton-Dix helped hold a giant American flag on the field as the anthem was played.

In Cleveland, the Browns ran onto the field for their opener against Pittsburgh accompanied by police, firefighters, emergency workers and military personnel.

After being criticized for kneeling during the national anthem before a recent exhibition, several Browns players met with owners Jimmy and Dee Haslam about how to connect better with the community. They later met with Cleveland's police chief and one of the ideas hatched was the pregame introduction. The public servants stood alongside the players for the anthem.

"I thought it was pretty cool," said 10-time Pro Bowl tackle Joe Thomas. "I think doing that shows the unity that this team is trying to promote between our football team and first responders, military, police, and hopefully show a positive effort to move forward and to try to make America a better place for everybody."

Before the anthem, a video featuring several Browns players, including Thomas and rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer, was shown on the scoreboard. During the video, players asked for unity, equality and cooperation during a time of division in the country.

Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch also sat during the national anthem in Tennessee. □



Protesters rally for former quarterback Colin Kaepernick outside Ford Field and an NFL football game between the Detroit Lions and the Arizona Cardinals in Detroit, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017.

Associated Press

Toliver's shooting lifts Mystics to 82-68 win over Liberty

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kristi Toliver scored 32 points, hitting a WNBA playoff-record nine 3-pointers, to lead the Washington Mystics to an 82-68 victory over the New York Liberty on Sunday. The Mystics will face Minnesota in the best-of-five semifinals, starting Tuesday night in Minneapolis. This is as far as the Mystics have gone in the playoffs since 2002 — the last time they made it out of the opening round of the postseason. Washington found itself down 13 points in the first half before rallying to 41-35 at the break. Then Toliver took over. She scored 16 points in the third quarter, hitting all four of her 3-pointers in the period. She could

only shrug and smile as the fourth one went in to give the Mystics a 57-46 advantage with 2:48 left in the third. She set the Mystics franchise record for points in a game by the end of the third quarter. That 3-pointer, her eighth, also broke the previous WNBA record for 3-pointers made in a playoff game. Tina Charles led the Liberty with 18 points. It's the second consecutive season that New York was a three-seed and lost its first postseason game.

At Uncasville, Brittney Griner had 26 points and nine rebounds, Diana Taurasi added 23 points, and Phoenix beat Connecticut 88-83 to reach the semifinals.

Taurasi moved to 11-0 in elimination playoff games. Phoenix will start its best-of-five semifinals series against Los Angeles on Tuesday night. Phoenix made 3-pointers on three straight possession late in the fourth quarter to take an 84-79 lead. Leilani Mitchell started it with an open shot from the wing for a 78-76 lead. Taurasi came off a screen for another 3, and Monique Currie capped it with 2:31 left. Alyssa Thomas had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Sun, and Jonquel Jones added 19 points and 15 rebounds for Connecticut. Jones had 11 points and 12 rebounds in the first half to set a playoff franchise record for rebounds in a half. □

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Froome wins Tour-Vuelta double as Contador ends final race

By **TALES AZZONI**

AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Chris Froome paraded into Madrid to clinch his first Spanish Vuelta title and secure the elusive Tour de France-Vuelta double on Sunday, while Spanish great Alberto Contador celebrated the end of his remarkable career in front of his home crowd.

Froome had virtually secured victory with a solid performance in the difficult climb up the Alto de l'Angliru on Saturday, which marked the last competitive stage of the three-week race.

"It's just incredible," Froome said. "I'm still coming to terms with everything. It's been such an incredible journey."

Riders cruised to the finish in Sunday's 21st stage, with the leaders not challenging each other, as per cycling tradition.

Italian Matteo Trentin won the final sprint to clinch his fourth stage victory in this year's Vuelta.

Froome, who earlier this year clinched his fourth Tour de France title, had finished runner-up in La Vuelta three times, including last year.

The Team Sky rider became the third man to complete the Tour-Vuelta double in the same season, after Jacques Anquetil in 1963 and Bernard Hinault in 1978, when the Vuelta was still held in the spring before the Tour.

"Just the fact that nobody's ever won the Tour and then La Vuelta afterwards, it's incredible to be able to do it," said Froome, the first British rider to win the Vuelta. "It's just been



Britain's Chris Froome celebrates on podium after winning the Spanish Vuelta cycling race, in Madrid, Sunday, Sept. 9, 2017. The special trophy he holds was given to him as he won both the Tour de France and La Vuelta.

Associated Press

an amazing few months and I want to thank everyone who has contributed to that. I've been fighting for this victory for six years and three years I've been standing on the second step so it's amazing to stand on the first step this time."

Froome won two Vuelta stages this year, finishing 2 minutes, 15 seconds in front of Italian Vincenzo Nibali of Team Bahrain-Merida, who won the Vuelta in 2010 and was runner-up in 2013.

Russian Ilmur Zakarin of Team Katusha Alpecin,

secured the final podium spot, almost three minutes behind Froome.

Froome also won the points competition, while Astana Pro Team won the overall team event.

Contador, the three-time Vuelta winner, ended his career on a high note by winning Saturday's difficult 20th stage.

He was loudly cheered by Spanish fans as he arrived to cross the finish line one last time.

The rest of the riders allowed him to break from the peloton and ride a few moments by himself as

the fans applauded. After the race, Contador took a Spanish flag and went for one final parade lap.

"It was very special to get to lead all the riders into Madrid," Contador said. "It was an incredible finish. I dreamed about ending my career this way."

The 34-year-old Contador had been out of contention for the Vuelta title after losing several minutes in a poor performance in the second stage.

He made up time later in the race, but not enough to make it to the podium and eventually finished

fifth, more than three minutes off the lead.

Considered one of Spain's greatest riders, Contador also won the Tour de France twice and the Giro d'Italia twice. He was stripped of a third Tour victory for doping.

"It's a dream. I can't imagine a better goodbye than this," he said. "Now is the moment to stop. When I started as a professional, I said I wanted to finish at the top level.

And I think that now is the perfect moment for this. In the last 15 years, I did everything with my heart." □



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China's ever-tighter web controls jolt companies, scientists

By JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Frank Chen's e-commerce business has nothing to do with politics but he worries it might be sunk by the Communist Party's latest effort to control what the Chinese public sees online. Chen's 25-employee company sells clothes and appliances to Americans and Europeans through platforms including Facebook, one of thousands of websites blocked by China's web filters. Chen reaches it using a virtual private network, but that window might be closing after Beijing launched a campaign in January to stamp out use of VPNs to evade its "Great Firewall."

"Our entire business might be paralyzed," said Chen by phone from the western city of Chengdu. Still, he added later in a text message, "national policy deserves a positive response and we fully support it." The crackdown threatens to disrupt work and study for millions of Chinese entrepreneurs, scientists and students who rely on websites they can see only with a VPN. The technology, developed to create secure, encrypted links between computers, allows Chinese web users to see a blocked site by hiding the address from government filters.

Astronomers and physicists use services such as Google Scholar and Dropbox, accessible only via VPN, to share research and stay in touch with foreign colleagues. Merchants use Facebook and other blocked social media to find customers. Students look for material in subjects from history to film editing on YouTube and other



In this Aug. 19, 2013 file photo, computer users sit near a monitor display with a message from the Chinese police on the proper use of the Internet at an Internet cafe in Beijing, China.

Associated Press

blocked sites. Control over information is especially sensitive ahead of October's twice-a-decade ruling party congress at which President Xi Jinping is due to be named to a second five-year term as leader. The VPN crackdown is part of a campaign to tighten political control that activists say is the most severe since the 1989 suppression of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement. Dozens of activists and lawyers have been detained. A cybersecurity law that took effect in June tightens control on online data. Regulators have stepped up censorship of social media and video websites. How many people might be affected is unclear, but consumer research firm GlobalWebIndex said a survey of Chinese web surfers this year found 14 percent use a VPN daily. If that percentage holds for China's total online population of 731 million, it suggests the

country might have as many as 100 million regular users. Some 8.8 percent of people in the survey use VPNs to look at "restricted sites," according to GlobalWebIndex. That would be equivalent to 65 million people, or the population of Britain. Communist leaders encourage web use for business and education. They want online commerce to help transform China from a low-wage factory into a high-tech consumer society. But they reject the notion of a borderless internet and free flow of information. Chinese web users without VPNs cannot see the most popular global websites including Google and social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as news outlets and human rights groups. In the latest crackdown, regulators say only government-authorized VPNs will be allowed. The operator of a popular service, Green

VPN, told customers in June it had been ordered to close. Others shut down without warning. "You have to leave a window for people, for those who need it," said Wen Jian, a securities trader in Beijing. Wen said he needs to find financial information and Google, accessible only with a VPN, is more effective than Chinese search engines. But his VPN quit working two months ago. "As far as I know, some government people use VPNs too," said Wen, 27. "They read things abroad. Why can they have it and we cannot?" The crackdown reflects Xi's notion of "internet sovereignty," or Beijing's absolute right to control what people can do and see online. Unauthorized VPNs already were banned but authorities appeared to ignore them, possibly to avoid disrupting business or to defuse resistance among professionals and academics.

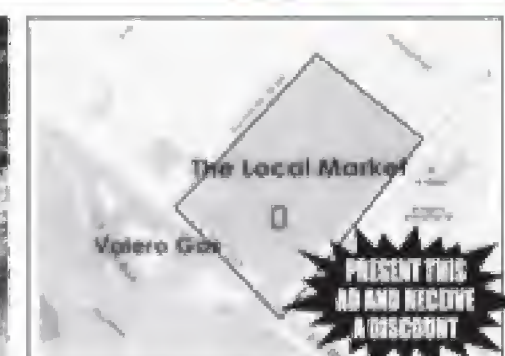
Government spokespeople refuse to acknowledge any site is blocked, though researchers say they can see attempts to reach sites such as Google stopped within servers operated by state-owned China Telecom Ltd., which controls China's links to the global internet. Regulators have yet to say who will be allowed to use government-licensed VPNs or what they can see. But a letter sent by China Telecom to some corporate customers this year offers a hint: It says VPNs can link only to a company's headquarters abroad and no other sites. It warns violators will lose access. Until now, web controls have acted like a tax, allowing users to see blocked sites by paying for a VPN, according to Margaret E. Roberts, a political scientist at the University of California at San Diego. "As VPNs become more difficult to access, it's like the government is raising the tax," said Roberts in an email. "If VPNs were illegal, we would expect a different calculation for those seeking access." In a sign of a more severe official stance, a 26-year-old entrepreneur who sold VPN service in Dongguan, near Hong Kong, was sentenced in March to nine months in prison. The agency in charge of the crackdown, the Cyberspace Administration of China, and the Cabinet press office didn't respond to questions sent by fax and email about what, if anything, the public will be allowed to do with authorized VPNs. Chen, the online merchant, said he heard private companies might be permitted but he has yet to apply. □

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Want to try before you buy? These online retailers let you

By **JOSEPH PISANI**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is set to launch a service that lets customers order clothes, try them on at home and pay only for what they keep. It sounds novel, but Amazon is actually late to the party. Several online startups have offered try-before-you-buy options for items including jewelry, clothing, glasses and more.

It makes shoppers less nervous about buying online, the companies say, and also gives people a chance to touch and try on a necklace or shirt before splurging. The retailers also know that getting you to try something at home means you're more likely to keep it.

Some offer home try-ons for free, others charge a fee or hold a small amount on a credit card until the items are returned. All offer free shipping both ways. But if you forget to send the items back on time, or damage them, you'll likely have to pay the full price. Here's how some of the services work:

CLOTHING

Trunk Club, which is owned by department store operator Nordstrom, sends a box of stylist-approved clothing whenever you want for \$25 a box. You have five days to try on the clothes and send back what you don't want.



Warby Parker eyewear is displayed at a company retail store, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, in New York. At Warby Parker, you can pick out five frames to try for five days for free.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

You'll be charged for any items you don't return, and the \$25 fee will be deducted from the cost of what you buy. Stitch Fix offers a similar service for \$20 a box. The Black Tux, an online tuxedo and suit rental service, will send over an outfit to try on for free for 48 hours.

GLASSES

At Warby Parker, you can pick out five frames to try for five days for free. The company does ask for your credit card information during the test run and will charge for frames that are lost or damaged. If you decide to buy one, you send the test frames back and the company will send new

ones.

ELECTRONICS

Lumoid lends used cameras, drones and other electronics for a fee to help customers decide which one to buy. The rental fees vary: A three-day test of a Canon camera with a lens costs \$57. Lumoid also lets users rent three smartwatches for \$53 or three high-end headphones for \$30 and up. If you decide to buy something, a part of the rental fee is deducted from the purchase price. And customers can opt to buy a used item or new one from Lumoid.

Founder and CEO Aarthi Ramamurthy says people

are overwhelmed with the number of gadgets available, and Lumoid offers a test run. "Why not bring the showroom to the consumer's home?" she says. Lumoid recently signed a deal with Best Buy, and shoppers at BestBuy.com will soon be able to rent out some of Best Buy's cameras and fitness trackers.

JEWELRY

Rocksbox sends members who pay \$21 a month three pieces of jewelry at a time, including earrings, necklaces and bracelets. You can wear them and keep them as long as you want. If you decide to buy anything, keep it at home and

send the rest back. A \$21 credit is taken off the price. For those who plan to get hitched, Four Mine gives you three days to try on three engagement rings at home. The test rings are made with metal instead of gold or platinum, and use a fake diamond to help it look like the real deal. The company places a \$1 credit card hold for each ring until they are returned, and charges \$50 each for ones that aren't sent back.

ALMOST ANY SITE

Still in its testing mode, Try.com says it has developed technology that lets shoppers try before they buy at many online retailers. Users pay \$2.99 a month to add a button to their Chrome internet browser and a Try.com option shows up on any site. Click the link, and Try.com pays for the items. Members have seven days to try clothing, shoes or accessories and send back any items they don't want. If you keep anything, Try.com will charge you for it. The monthly fee will rise when it officially launches in November, but hasn't set a price yet, says co-founder and CEO Ankush Sehgal. That same month, it also plans to launch a mobile app. Sehgal says members try about \$500 worth of items at a time, and about 70 percent of customers buy at least one item. □

Equifax breach sows chaos among 143M Americans

By **KEN SWEET**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after credit-reporting company Equifax disclosed that "criminals" had stolen vital data about 143 million Americans, it had somehow managed to leave

much of the public in the dark about their exposure, how they should protect themselves and what Equifax planned to do for those affected.

The breach is unquestionably serious. It exposed crucial pieces of personal

data that criminals could use to commit identity theft, from Social Security numbers and birthdates to address histories and legal names.

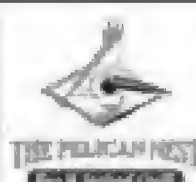
That data — the "crown jewels of personal information," in the words of in-

dependent credit analyst John Ulzheimer — can't be changed, and once it's in circulation, it's basically out there forever.

But Equifax's response has satisfied almost no one.

Consumers complained of jammed phone lines and

uninformed representatives. An Equifax website set up to help people determine their exposure looked like a scam to some, and provided inconsistent and unhelpful information to others. Congress planned hearings. □



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Insider Q&A: Higher pay needed to support stronger growth

By JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sluggish pay raises have been an Achilles' heel for American workers since the Great Recession ended more than eight years ago — and a major headwind for faster economic growth. As a result, many people are spending less than they otherwise would. That trend, in turn, contributes to slower overall growth in the U.S. economy, because consumers account for roughly 70 percent of economic activity.

Dan North, chief economist for Euler Hermes North America, part of the world's oldest and largest credit insurance company, spoke recently with The Associated Press about how income after taxes — what analysts call disposable personal income — isn't keeping pace with consumer spending growth.

Q: What are the factors driving U.S. economic growth right now?

A: We think for the entire year we're likely to see GDP growth of around 2 percent. But consumers have a few headwinds. First of all, real disposable personal income growth is increasing at just 1.3 percent. That's very slow. Consumer spending is increasing at a faster rate. If you look at personal consumption expenditures, that's rising



This photo shows Dan North, the chief economist for Euler Hermes North America. North says sluggish pay raises have been an Achilles' heel for American workers since the Great Recession ended more than eight years ago, and a major headwind for faster economic growth.

(Courtesy of Euler Hermes via AP)

at 2.7 percent. As a result, consumers have to dip into their flow of savings to pay for items.

Without income growth, it's hard for consumption growth to continue. The big story is we don't have enough income. Consumer confidence has soared since the election. But consumers often say one thing and do another. To spend, you need the willingness and ability. Consumers are saying they have the willingness, so it would seem. But that's not enough. You've got to have the ability to spend, too.

Q: What would unlock stronger income growth?

A: The low unemployment rate doesn't tell the whole story. Our participation rate — the share of people with jobs or looking for work — is quite low as well. We need more people at work. And we need those people to be earning higher wages. You might think that the low unemployment rate would lead to higher wage growth, but it hasn't. One reason is that productivity has been very weak. When you have weak productivity, you have weak wage growth.

Q: What role do baby boomers and millennials play in all of this?

A: This demographics of the aging workforce is really tough. What's happening is we have baby boomers who are leaving the workforce at a rate of 10,000 every day. They probably will keep doing that for the next 12 years or so. We can't replace them fast enough, and employers can't find the right people with the right skills to fill those jobs.

One way to address that is to have more skilled legal immigration. President

Trump took a step in the right way with a proposal to focus on bringing in more skilled immigrants. But then then he took a step backward by planning to cut down the number immigrants being admitted.

Q: Can businesses get enough access to credit?

A: Small and medium businesses have a desire to expand, but there is still caution on pulling the trigger. So there is a lack of loan demand. You see the numbers where the growth in commercial loans may not be strong, but you look at the banker survey and say, well, a lot of businesses aren't really interested in getting credit yet. That's kind of hampering the expansion of credit. □

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Average US gas price jumps after Harvey shuts refineries

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average price of gasoline jumped in the past two weeks after Hurricane Harvey prompted the closure of refineries. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that it

was the biggest price hike recorded by the Lundberg Survey since 2011. But she says whole gasoline prices have started to decline since refineries came back online and she expects prices at the pump

will follow.

In the survey on Sept. 8, the average price of regular gasoline was up 30 cents at \$2.69 per gallon. That's 48 cents higher than a year ago.

The average price of diesel

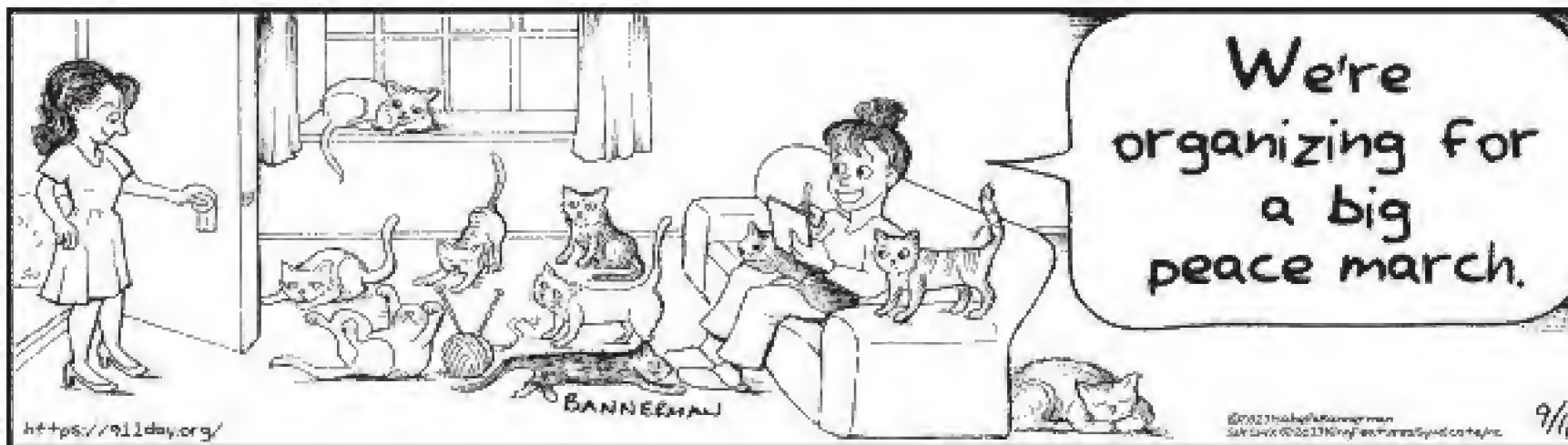
jumped 16 cents to \$2.73 per gallon.

In the contiguous United States, gas was most expensive in San Francisco at \$3.21 a gallon and cheapest in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at \$2.31 a gallon. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7	5		3		6	9	
			8		2		4
		6		5			
	8		5	4	3		
2			1				5
		4	2	3		7	
			6		5		
4	8			9			
	9	2		5	4		7

Difficulty Level ★

9/11

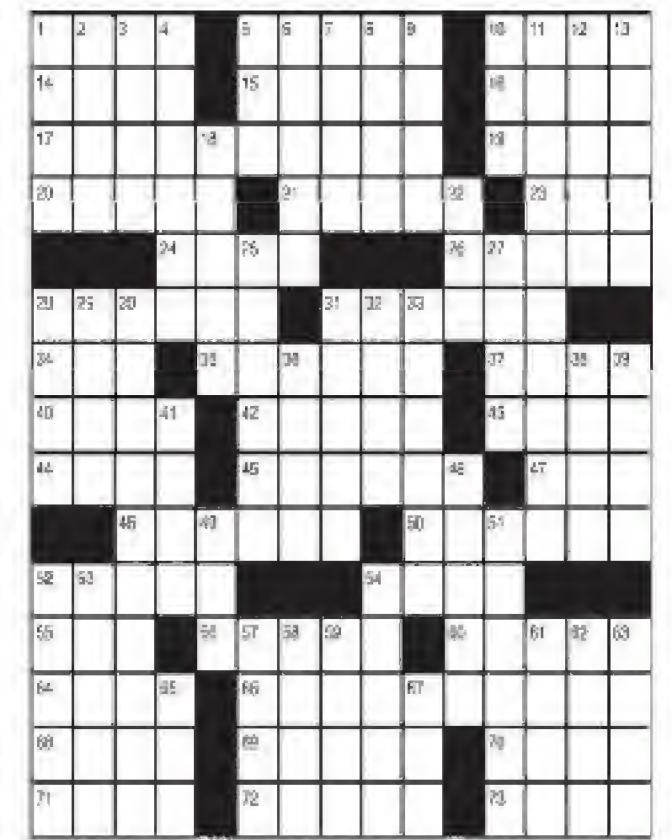
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

3	6	2	9	7	5	4	1	8
1	4	5	6	3	8	9	2	7
8	7	9	2	4	1	6	3	5
7	2	3	8	5	4	1	9	6
4	9	1	7	2	6	5	8	3
5	8	6	3	1	9	2	7	4
2	5	8	4	9	3	7	6	1
9	3	4	1	6	7	8	5	2
6	1	7	5	8	2	3	4	9

ACROSS

- Grand __; four-run homer
- Shapes
- Play divisions
- African nation
- Under way; in progress
- Uninteresting speaker
- Hyper
- Group at a family reunion
- Bicycle part
- Opponent
- Fleur-de-__
- Claim against property
- Give a speech
- Request for help
- Cruiser
- By way of
- Fencing swords
- Subsides
- Troubles
- One's equals
- Word on the sticker on a banana
- Sandwich shop
- Arranges
- Religious sister
- Uncles, for some
- Penny-pinchers
- Toothpaste brand
- Penny
- Mauna __
- Break into bits
- Casual farewells
- Meanie
- Car
- Mon.'s follower
- Pitfall
- Cuisine; frozen food brand
- His and __
- Scatter
- Vane direction
- DOWN
- Go no further
- In __ with; smitten by
- Gentlemen



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

9/11/17

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

FAME	AGLOW	STAR
LIES	PRONE	OHIO
ARTS	PERENNIALS	
PSI	WEED	ARISE
COHAN	DIE	
PAUPER	REVEAL	
ALLEN	VOICE	BIT
NOON	CAULK	LOCH
GNU	BASTE	JAMIE
ESCORT	FINITE	
HOE	ELLEN	
UPPER	MEAL	AGB
SALESCLERK	ABLE	
PIER	BELIE	CLAD
SLAY	SITES	TEDS

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- Over-the-hill
- Esprit de corps
- PC alternative
- Frequently
- Cut of pork
- Bird of peace
- Flower stalk
- Opening trio
- Clavicle
- Characteristic
- Good judgment
- Assumed name
- Hither and __ in a great many places
- Pass, as time
- Flex or Donna
- Gung ho
- Heap
- Coffin carrier
- Sporting events
- Miscalculates
- Take for granted
- Red meat
- Make fuzzy
- Feinstein and Cruz: abbr.
- Gentlemen
- beans
- Part of TGIF
- Steady; unchanging
- Fabric
- Scoundrel
- Task
- Cathedral service
- Female relative
- Tiny night light
- "... yellow ribbon" round the ole oak...
- "Woe is me!"
- Transmitted
- Feminine suffix
- Kitten's cry



An aerial view of the city of Leghorn, Italy, following floods, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. Torrential rain in Italy has triggered flooding that killed at least five people in Tuscany. Italian state television said four of the victims were family members whose bodies were found in a flooded basement the Tuscan port town of Leghorn, also known as Livorno. Authorities said two people in the Leghorn area were missing.

(Vigili del Fuoco/Italian Firefighters via AP)

Heavy rains, floods hit Italy; at least 6 dead

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Torrential rain in Italy triggered flooding that killed at least six people Sunday in the Tuscan port of Leghorn, including a family of four who were trapped by rising water in a basement. Two other people were reported missing. Strong winds toppled trees and parked cars were nearly submerged by floodwaters that left the streets clogged with mud. "The city is literally devastated," said Leghorn Mayor Filippo Nogarini, adding that "a crazy amount of rain" pummeled the area in just a few hours. The Italian news agency

ANSA said the bodies of a 4-year-old boy, his parents and his grandfather were found in the flooded basement of their two-family home. Before dying, the grandfather managed to save the boy's sister, state TV RaiNews24 reported. Leghorn province's interior ministry official, Anna Maria Manzone, told Sky TG24 TV that by late Sunday afternoon two people were still missing. Sky reported the six dead included two elderly people who died in a hillside hamlet on the edge of Leghorn. Nogarini appealed for volunteers to help. The city of 170,000 is also a popular spot for travelers catching

ferries to the islands of Elba and Sardinia. The flooding also interrupted train service in parts of the Tuscan coast along the Tyrrhenian Sea. In Rome, which until recently had suffered through 3½ months of drought, the downpour quickly produced fast-moving streams in the streets. Several subway stations had to be closed. Rome City Hall urged residents and visitors to go outside only for urgent reasons and to avoid parks after thunderstorms lashed the city Sunday morning. Possible hailstorms and strong winds were predicted throughout the rest of Sunday and Monday. □

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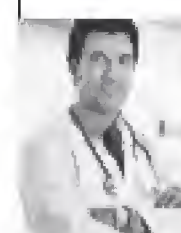
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Winds, fire, floods and quakes: A nutty run of nature

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

With four big hurricanes, a powerful earthquake and wildfires, it seems that nature recently has just gone nuts.

Some of these disasters, like Friday's earthquake in Mexico, are natural. Others may end up having a mix of natural and man-made ingredients after scientists examine them. We also always tend to look for patterns and order in chaos, even when they aren't there, psychologists say.

"Nature's gone crazy," mused Jeff Masters, meteorology director at the private service Weather Underground. "Welcome to the future. Extreme weather like this is going to be occurring simultaneously more often because of global warming."

A look at a rough few weeks in North America:

HURRICANE QUARTET

Hurricane Harvey hadn't even fizzled and Houston hadn't even dried out from record flooding before Hurricane Irma formed and also grew into a powerful Category 4 storm. Right behind Irma, Jose has powered up to a Category 4 storm. It is highly unusual, but not unprecedented



Soldiers remove debris from a partly collapsed municipal building after an earthquake in Juchitan, Oaxaca state, Mexico, Friday, Sept. 8, 2017.

to have back-to-back storms of that strength, Masters said. And then there is Hurricane Katia, just a shade under major hurricane status, due to hit Mexico's Gulf coast.

The last couple of years were quiet for Atlantic hurricanes, which makes this year seem even worse, said Colorado State University meteorology professor Phil Klotzbach, a hurricane expert. He said calculations that measure strength and duration show the three current Atlantic storms set a one-day record for energy on Friday. In just three days, Irma, Jose and Katia have produced as much

as energy as about half a normal six-month hurricane season.

EARTHQUAKE

As Mexico was bracing for Katia off the Gulf coast, one of the strongest earthquakes in the country's history hit late Thursday off its Pacific coast, near the Guatemala border. The magnitude 8.1 earthquake was felt for more than 650 miles (1,000 kilometers). The quake shook at a depth of 43 miles (69 kilometers) and a quake hitting at that depth with that strength is unusual, according to Cornell University geophysics professor Geoff Abers. It was one of the five largest for

that deep in the past 40 years, he said.

WILDFIRES

On Friday, 82 wildfires were burning in the United States involving nearly 1.5 million acres in nine states in the West. So far this year, more than 8 million acres have burned, only behind 2015 and 2012. One fire at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon has burned more than 175,000 acres and is only 5 percent contained as of Friday, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Drought and a heat wave contributed. On Sept. 1, in normally temperate San Francisco,

the temperature hit 106 degrees and at least six deaths were reported from the heat wave.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Sometimes there's a pattern in chaos. Sometimes there isn't. Looking for patterns gives us a sense of control, even if we don't really have it, said Scott Lilienfeld, a psychology professor at Emory University in Atlanta. "The human mind is a pattern-seeking organ," he said. "That's how our minds work." It can take weeks or months for scientists to determine whether an extreme weather event was worsened by man-made climate change. But scientists have long predicted that the strongest hurricanes will get stronger and wetter, fueled by warmer ocean water. And some say the recent global increase in powerful hurricanes fits perfectly with global warming. While warming may play a small role, so does Twitter and Facebook in making things appear worse, said Klotzbach.

"It just feels like, you know, it's the apocalyptic end times," he said. "But a lot of this stuff is getting attention because of social media." □

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24/7

Aaron Sorkin on directing: 'I had the time of my life'

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Aaron Sorkin was sitting in a restaurant with producers Amy Pascal and Mark Gordon, ticking off the names of top Hollywood directors who might be a good fit for the script Sorkin had just finished: "Molly's Game," a drama about the so-called "poker princess" Molly Bloom. "When we got to the end, Mark and Amy said, 'But we think you should direct it,'" Sorkin recalled in an interview. "And I grabbed at the chance." "Molly's Game" premiered Friday night at the Toronto International Film Festival where it was immediately greeted with rave reviews, awards forecasts for star Jessica Chastain and a general reaction of: Sorkin, director, is a rip-roaring success.

He had come close before. "I was going to direct 'The Social Network,'" Amy Pas-

cal, Scott Rudin and I said, 'You know what, let's just give it to David Fincher and once he's passes, I'll direct it,'" said Sorkin. "I've never been so lucky to not direct something in my life."

Fate intervened, Sorkin and Fincher created one of the most celebrated films of the decade, and Sorkin's chance to take the director's chair had to wait. Danny Boyle took the reins of Sorkin's next script, the Apple co-founder biopic "Steve Jobs." But the cards came up different for Sorkin on "Molly's Game," which STX Entertainment will release Nov. 22. The story is a rich one — full of Sorkin's whip-smart dialogue — that Sorkin says he became obsessed with telling. "At some point, you have to fall in love," he said. "With this, it was right away." The film is partly based on Bloom's memoir about running a high-stakes poker game in Los Angeles where bold-



Director Aaron Sorkin attends a premiere for "Molly's Game" on day 2 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the Elgin Theatre on Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, in Toronto.

faced names like Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and Ben Affleck were regulars. Bloom was herself a former elite freestyle skier

whose Olympic chances were dramatically derailed by an injury. She was later arrested as part of a larger mafia investigation.

Impressed by Bloom's intellect, sense of humor and character, Sorkin could see Bloom was more interesting than her tabloid persona. □

Associated Press

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This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Bill Skarsgard in a scene from "It." Associated Press

'It' floats away with record-breaking \$117.2M weekend

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "It" is a hit.

The Stephen King adaptation from New Line and Warner Bros. shattered records over the weekend earning \$117.2 million from 4,103 locations according to studio estimates on Sunday.

Not only is "It" now the largest ever opening for a horror movie and the largest September opening of all time, the film more than doubled the earnings of the previous record holders. Before this weekend "Paranormal Activity 3" had the biggest horror opening with \$52.6 million from 2011, and the highest September debut was "Hotel Transylvania 2's" \$48.5 million in 2015.

"We blew past everyone's most optimistic and aggressive projections and I think there might be room for us to grow this weekend even still," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution.

Goldstein said he was conservative with Sunday projections due to the confounding factors of the film's R-rating, the popularity of late night showings, the beginning of football season and Hurricane Irma. Regardless of whether there is an uptick when final numbers are reported Monday, "It's" success is still astounding, especially considering that the project from director Andy

Muschiatti cost only \$35 million to produce.

Critics and audiences were on the same page, too. The film has a fresh 86-percent Rotten Tomatoes score, and audiences, who were 65 percent over age 25, gave "It" a B+ CinemaScore.

Starring Bill Skarsgard as the homicidal clown Pennywise, "It" is the first of a planned two-part series. The second is slated to come out in the third quarter of 2019.

"It starts with a brilliant story from Stephen King," Goldstein said of the stellar performance. "The director made a fabulously compelling movie, our marketing just nailed it and the date was special."

Indeed, the date proved key. With no discernable competition, save for the counter programmed opening of the Reese Witherspoon romantic comedy "Home Again," which came in a very distant second with \$9 million, "It" was able to dominate screens and show times at major movie theaters.

"I don't think anyone could have imagined an opening over \$100 million for this movie," comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian said. "Suddenly September is on the map with its first \$100 million debut. Every month of the year is a potential hit-maker and this is really good news for an industry that for

the last six weeks has been in the doldrums."

"It" is just the latest example of a film that defies old box office logic about which timeframes work for tent-pole movies. Before "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," no December movie had ever opened over \$100 million, for instance, and the same went for the month of February until "Deadpool" proved that to be antiquated thinking as well. The success of "It" also comes after an underperforming summer movie going season that left the year to date box office down 6.5 percent from last year. Now, with the "It" factor, the year is down only 5.5 percent.

"There has been a lot written about the demise of the box office. This seems to come up every few years and it's all content driven. If there are good movies that are out there in the marketplace, the public will embrace them and be excited to see them. If we come up with movies they are not interested in, they stay away," Goldstein said. "This is a movie they wanted to see."

The overwhelming dominance of "It" made the rest of the charts look downright anemic. In third place was "The Hitman's Bodyguard," with \$4.9 million, "Annabelle: Creation" took fourth with \$4 million, and "Wind River" rounded out the top five with \$3.2 million. □

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SUN & HOL 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00

MON-FRI 6:20 | 9:15
SAT-SUN & HOL 3:00 | 6:20 | 9:15

ELIZABETH OLSEN | JEREMY RENNER

WIND RIVER

WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES

MON-FRI 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25
SAT-SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25

RYAN REYNOLDS | SAMUEL L. JACKSON

THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD

MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:55 | 9:20
FRI 4:20 | 6:55 | 9:20 | 11:45
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:55 | 9:20 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:55 | 9:20

ANTHONY LAPAGLIA | SAMARA LEE

ANNABELLE CREATION

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35
FRI 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 11:25
SAT 2:20 | 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35

IDRIS ELBA | MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

THE DARKTOWER

PG-13

MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:45 | 9:00
SAT-SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:45 | 9:00

HALLE BERRY | SAGE CORREA

KIDNAP

WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS • SUN & HOL 9:10
FRI-SAT 9:10 | 11:25

T.J. MILLER | JAMES CORDEN

THE EMOJI MOVIE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-FRI 4:05 | 6:20
SAT-SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:20

REGINA HALL | QUEEN LATIFAH

GIRLS TRIP

MON-SUN & HOL 9:05

WILL ARNETT | KATHERINE HEIGL

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Jennifer Lawrence suggests storms are 'Mother Nature's rage'

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Lawrence is facing backlash online for suggesting that monster hurricanes that just devastated Texas and another nearing Florida may have been prompted by Donald Trump becoming president.

While in England to promote her film "Mother!" the actress was asked about changes happening in America. "You know,

you're watching these hurricanes now, and it's really hard, especially while promoting this movie, not to feel Mother Nature's rage. Wrath," Lawrence told Channel 4 on Wednesday. The comment from the Academy Award-winning actress drew the ire of many on Twitter, where there were calls to boycott Lawrence films. Lawrence has not been shy about her dislike of Trump, once



This Sept. 6, 2017 file photo, Jennifer Lawrence poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film "Mother!", in London.

saying his election might just be "the end of the world." □



In this Oct. 15, 2016 file photo, singer Beyoncé Knowles attends the Tidal X: 1015 benefit concert in New York.

Associated Press

Beyoncé sheds tears as she visits victims of Harvey

HOUSTON (AP) — Beyoncé returned to her hometown of Houston to provide comfort to those affected by Hurricane Harvey, telling them, "This is a celebration of survival." Accompanied by her mother and former Destiny's Child bandmate Michelle Williams, Beyoncé visited with evacuees Friday at the St. John's Church, where she grew up singing. She wiped away tears as she listened to their stories,

including from a family of 16 that fled to Houston after Hurricane Katrina and this time escaped their home through a picture window. Beyoncé told them, "The things that really matter are your health and your children, and your family and your life." Among the other celebrities who visited evacuees at shelters Friday were Janet Jackson, comedian Kevin Hart and actress Jennifer Garner. □

CBS announces all-celebrity edition of 'Big Brother'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — CBS has announced a first-ever celebrity edition of its longtime reality staple "Big Brother." The network hasn't named any of the stars taking part in what CBS calls a "concentrated run" of a special edition of the show this winter. No premiere date was announced. "Big Brother" host Julie Chen will also helm the celebrity version, which

will air in addition to "Big Brother's" traditional summer run in 2018. A star-studded edition of "Big Brother" is new to the U.S., but has long aired as part of the British version of the show. Contestants on "Big Brother" live together under constant surveillance in a custom-built house and are eliminated through an eviction vote. The show premiered in CBS in 2000. □

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Def on retirement: "I'm always going to be creating"

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Hip-hop star Yasiin Bey took the stage at the ONE Musicfest for what appeared to be the last performance of his career. But the rapper also known as Mos Def said in a backstage interview with The Associated Press on Saturday night, he'll continue creating and will return to the public spotlight in the future. He performed for more than an hour at the eighth annual ONE Musicfest in Atlanta, performing popular songs from "The New Danger," "UML Says" to "Black Radio."

"I enjoyed it today," he said. "So if I get a chance to do it again in another way, I'll just give it my all. I'm always going to be creating. ... I'm not going to disappear if I stop rap or doing it in a certain type of way." Bey announced his retirement from the music and acting business after getting into a legal fight in South Africa. He was charged with trying to leave the country while using a passport not recognized by that country. He



In this March 24, 2016 file photo, American actor and musician Yasiin Bey, also known as Mos Def, leaves the Bellville Magistrates' Court in Bellville, South Africa.

was ultimately allowed to leave but denied re-entry. The 42-year-old rapper started his farewell concerts at the Apollo Theater in New York in late 2016, and then was supposed to have his final performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. However, ONE Musicfest founder Jason "J" Carter and other festival organizers helped convince Bey to perform in Atlanta after reaching out to the rap-

per's lawyer and manager. Bey headlined the festival along with Jill Scott, Migos, Too \$hort and Damien Marley. Watching Bey's performance was a proud moment, Carter said. "It still hasn't sunken in yet," Carter said. "Just watching him onstage - his excitement and energy - it just looks like he would miss this entirely too much. If it is his final show, it was monumental. I would not be disappointed if it wasn't just for who he is." □

Lady Gaga says she's taking a 'rest' from music after tour



Lady Gaga appears during a camera call before the press conference for "Gaga: Five Foot Two" at the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto on Friday, Sept. 8, 2017.

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Lady Gaga says that she's planning to take a "rest" from music and "slow down for a

moment for some healing." The pop star was at in Toronto on Friday for a pair of concerts and to premiere a

Netflix documentary about herself, "Gaga: Five Foot Two." The film, playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, chronicles her life, February's Super Bowl performance and her struggle with chronic pain. Gaga teared up speaking to reporters about her health issues. "It's hard," she said, "but it's liberating too." "When this tour is over I will take a little downtime from myself, and then I'll get back to doing what I love," she said. "I'm never not making music. I'm never not creating. I just am excited to spend some time reflecting on that past ten years and getting excited about what I want to create next." □

Dutch engineer aims high with latest green roof design

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press
AMSTERDAM (AP) —

Standing between raised beds of plants on top of a former naval hospital, Joris Voeten can look across to the garden, cafe and terrace that decorate the sloping roof of Amsterdam's NEMO science museum.

Such productivity is part of the urban engineer's vision for cities worldwide, places where he sees the largely neglected flat tops of buildings doing more than keeping out weather and housing satellite dishes.

Voeten, of Dutch company Urban Roofscapes, says a rooftop garden system he unveiled Friday on the former hospital roof stores more rainwater than existing green roofs and requires less power by relying on a capillary irrigation system that uses insulation material instead of pumps to water plants.



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, Joris Voeten inspects the rooftop garden he helped develop in Amsterdam.
Associated Press



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, Joris Voeten shows people around the rooftop garden he helped develop in Amsterdam.
Associated Press

"You can relax here, you can have meetings here. You could operate a restaurant on your rooftop garden to make it more economically beneficial," Voeten told The Associated Press ahead of the official presentation. "But most of all, we finally get to exploit the last unused square meterage in the urban environment."

Roofs that are adapted so plants can grow on them produce a cooling effect on buildings and the air immediately above them in two ways. The plants reflect heat instead of absorbing it the way traditional roofing sheets do. They also reduce heat by evaporating water.

Voeten said readings taken on a very hot day showed a temperature difference of up to 40 degrees Celsius (72 degrees Fahrenheit) between his hospital garden above the banks of a busy waterway compared with a roof covered in black bitumen. Robbert Snep, a green roof expert from Wageningen University and Research in

the central Netherlands, said the cooling effect is well known, but the new roof in Amsterdam is an improvement on existing designs because of the way it stores water and can feed it back to plants. Sensors in the shallow layer of soil on top of the water storage elements monitor qualities such as temperature and moisture content. If the soil gets too dry, extra water can be added. If there is too much water, it can be released into the drains.

"The smart roof really ensures that there is evaporation during, for example, heatwaves and thereby they cool the surroundings," Snep, who is not involved in the project, said. "People can sleep well and people can work well in such an environment." Voeten says his system

can be laid on any flat roof with sufficient load-bearing capacity, Voeten said. Costs would likely be around 100-150 euros (\$120-180) per square meter (10 square feet), he estimates.

Amsterdam, a city built around water and its World Heritage-listed canals, is keen to have its residents turn their rooftops into gardens where possible.

To promote the practice, the city is offers subsidies to help meet the costs.

"We ask citizens of the city to create rooftops like this. We ask companies to create rooftops like this," Vice Mayor Eric van der Burg said.

"Not only for water storage, not only for helping cooling down our city, but also to create extra gardens, extra green for our inhabitants." □

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